

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



ALDEAS  
INFANTILES SOS  
URUGUAY



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Annual Report 2015

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## On behalf of the right to grow up in a family



Aldeas Infantiles has been working in Uruguay for over 55 years now, with the purpose of asserting the right of all children and adolescents to grow up in a family environment and receive quality care. Since its inception, our organization has been adapting its intervention matrix, implement-

ing new responses and expanding its services, in order to create favorable conditions for the healthy development of all participants in our programs.

In particular, this 2015 was a year where we consolidated major processes, aimed at improving the quality of our services and fulfilling the rights of children and adolescents. The right to family- and community life is a common goal for all our services, both by way of prevention through the work we do at Family Strengthening, and by developing strategies for deinstitutionalization and working with families in Foster Care.

Accordingly, during the year we implemented a series of changes which allowed us to increase the quality of our services, providing improved care to families, bolstering their care capabilities and focusing on the areas more badly in need of support. In this context, we should like to particularly underline our progress in the family restoration and adoption areas, which reflects not only our steady and ongoing commitment toward the children, adolescents and their families, but also our creative search for ways to effectively promote and protect their right to grow up in a family environment. Our networking strategy has been instrumental for the achievement of these outcomes.

Historically, our organization has financed its work with funds originating from a variety of sources, such as international subsidies, contributions from individual donors, corporate alliances and agreements with State institutions (INAU). Seeking to prioritize international subsidies for those countries with the lesser resources, Children's Villages International has identified, out of the 134 Federation members, 35 countries in condition of attaining sustainability by the year 2020. This implies the need to intensify the search for local funding, allowing these countries to dispense with international support without affecting their services. Due to its social and economic conditions, Uruguay is one of the nine Latin American countries selected to strive for sustainability.

In this context, the steady support from the State and the commitment of a number of companies and private individuals who share our goals and have placed their trust in our organization, are key factors in our sustainability strategy, which will allow us to dispense with international support without restricting our services.

In this *Annual Report 2015* we are sharing the results of the joint work deployed during the year, emphasizing on the one hand, the progress achieved; and on the other, the challenges that motivate us in redoubling our efforts so that all Uruguayan children and adolescents may grow up in a family environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anainés Zignago'.

Anainés Zignago, B.A.

National Director, Aldeas Infantiles SOS Uruguay





This is who  
we are

## Aldeas Infantiles in Uruguay

SOS Children's Villages is a nonprofit, non-government and independent international organization for social development, working since 1949 with the goal of assuring the right of children and adolescents to a family- and community way of life.

Currently it is present in 134 countries, cooperating with governments, civil society organizations and communities, in line with the principles stated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the United Nations Directives.

The Uruguayan Association of SOS Children's Villages, (*Asociación Uruguaya de Aldeas Infantiles SOS*), was founded by initiative of Ilse Kasdorf in 1960, the first of its kind in Latin America.

Since then, and working on the principle that the family is the appropriate environment for the healthy development of individuals, we have been providing direct care to children and adolescents, supporting adults in the strengthening of their care capabilities, and intervening when necessary with other types of assistance.

To this effect, we have in place four programs, located respectively in the departments of Montevideo, Canelones, Florida and Salto-Paysandú\*, by which we provide a response suited to each person through our Foster Care and Family Strengthening services.

## Servicio de Fortalecimiento Familiar

With the purpose of preventing family disintegration, we work toward strengthening adults' capabilities to care for children and adolescents, creating for them the conditions that will allow them to fulfill their protective role.

Our centers are located in Montevideo, Canelones, Florida, Paysandú and Salto. At each of these centers, a technical interdisciplinary team closely monitors each family group's development process; and to this end, networking with other social organizations and State bodies is essential.

## Uruguay was the first country to have a national association of SOS Children's Villages (Aldeas Infantiles SOS)

Additionally, we provide daily assistance to children and adolescents from an educational perspective, while also feeding them breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. We also organize group workshops for adults on care-related subjects (guidelines on upbringing, nutrition, health) as well as others focused on occupational topics, aimed at helping them to develop job-related skills.

In Paysandú we have a Family Care Territorial Team (FCTT), reporting to the 'Cercanías' [Proximities] program sponsored by Mides (Ministry of Social Development), whose work in the community focuses on close monitoring of those families in a situation of vulnerability, promoting their active participation in the community and creating networks to facilitate their access to opportunities and resources.

\* In February 2016 the Salto-Paysandú program was effectively split into two separate programs providing services in both departments

## Foster Care Service

### Foster Care

The distinctive feature of our Foster Care Service for children and adolescents who have lost the care of their own families, is that it offers them a loving, protective environment.

This service operates in coordination with the Institute for Children and Adolescents (INAU), the domestic State entity providing nationwide regulation on all childhood and adolescence issues.

We have three villages situated respectively in Montevideo, Florida and Salto, as well as community houses in Montevideo, Canelones, Florida and Salto. Each of them contains an average of five children and adolescents in charge of a caregiver, who, together with each program's technical team, implements the actions to promote their development. Since each situation is unique, we have developed a variety of foster care protocols, with the purpose of providing the best response that each child or adolescent requires.

At the same time, we attempt to preserve the permanent relationship with the families, and for this purpose, we work on family reintegration, bond restoration and care-in-context.

### Reintegration and restoration

Our technical teams work with the families of children and adolescents participating in our Foster Care Service, looking to strengthen their care capabilities and bring about the actual restoration of family bonds and the family's reintegration.

### Care in Context

This protocol consists in assisting families in the context of their homes. Its purpose is to assure children, adolescents

and their adult caregivers the full enjoyment of their rights. The participants of this type of assistance continue to be listed in our agreement with INAU, receiving financial and other types of support, such as materials or tangible resources (baskets with supplies and food) as well as technical and institutional backing.

We resort to this type of assistance when a return to the family occurs, to assure that this process evolves in the best possible conditions and receives full support. It is essential being able to assure that, after having provided substitute care to children and adolescents, their families be prepared to receive them again in their midst, that such return endures over time and that their right to family life is asserted. We also resort to this type of assistance to forestall the loss of family care, by providing the families with resources that allow them to remain together.

### Adoption

Bearing in mind the best interest of the children or adolescents, whenever the conditions to make the restoration and reintegration are absent, another way to restore their right to family- and community life is resorting to adoption.

Section 137 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code states that "the adoption of children and adolescents is a regime of exception, the purpose of which is to assure their right to family life, and by virtue of which they enter their new family as sons or daughters, with full rights as such."

In Uruguay, the governing and competent body for the selection of, and allocation to, adoptive families is INAU. When all the adoptability requirements are met for any child or adolescent under our Foster Care Service (that is, where there is a severe deterioration in the family's relationship and there are no members of legal age in either the biological or the extended family willing to assume the required care), INAU's Adoption Department initiates the process with the families on the waiting list.

## The autonomy processes

When all possibilities have been exhausted for the family reintegration or adoption of children and adolescents participating in our Foster Care Service, we work to help youths initiate autonomous, independent lives as adults.

Each of our programs has a youth advisor assisting the adolescents and youths in the planning of their own independent status.

One of their responsibilities consists in expanding the range of possibilities for the life project of each adolescent, maximizing their skills and providing them with the wherewithal to lead an independent life, attain a steady job and socially integrate in different environments. Once the youths are independent, the adviser continues being their go-to person, providing follow-up, support and guidance.

The youth advisers work coordinately with each program's management team and with many experts of the technical team. They are also in contact with caregivers, and also coordinate actions with other organizations and government bodies.

## Advocacy and influencing

The CRC, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, recognized children and adolescents as legal persons. This document is based on four principles: the child's best interest, no child discrimination, child participation, and respect for the child's life and development.

Uruguay incorporated the CRC to its national legislation one year after its approval, requesting from the society at large its commitment to such respect and protection. Later on, in 2004, lawmakers created the Childhood and Adolescence Code, a national body of laws based on the fundamental principles of the CRC.

Based on this legal framework, in Aldeas Infantiles Uruguay we have worked under agreement with INAU and coordinately with other civil society organizations, as well as with the State, the community and the families as co-responsible parties, to assure the rights of

children and adolescents.

This is why, in addition to providing direct care, we have also promoted initiatives to amend existing laws and submitted proposals for new laws and policies, to assure the fulfillment and exercise of the rights of children and adolescents.

# The State, the families and the community must all of them assure the rights of children and adolescents



### **Vision:**

We believe that all children and adolescents should have a family, where they may grow up with love, respect and security. A healthy and loving family environment may assure children and adolescents a harmonious development and turn them into adults fully integrated with their communities.

### **Mission:**

We provide a protective environment for those children and adolescents who need it, and support them in constructing their own future.

### **Values:**

We act boldly in favor of all the world's children and adolescents. We are committed to working together with the parties involved in child protection, looking to achieve significant and lasting changes. Through trust, we have built a fund of mutual respect which encourages us to share and learn from our experiences. We assure the highest standards of care, and we work responsibly towards guaranteeing the well being of children and adolescents, while carefully managing our resources.



## Members of the Board Of Directors

The Board Of Directors consists of seven members (five of them, with their respective surrogates, elected among the active members by the General Assembly; while the remaining two are representatives of SOS Kinderdorf International and designated by SOS Kinderdorf International), whose duty is the governance and management of Aldeas Infantiles SOS Uruguay.

The position of Director is honorary in nature and the term of office last three years, being eligible for reelection for five consecutive terms.



### María Luisa von Metzen

She became part of the Board in 2007 and has presided over it since 2013, but has been involved with Aldeas Infantiles SOS since its inception, thanks to her being friends with one of founder Ilse Kasdorf's daughters. Mainly dedicated to the arts, particularly drawing – which she also teaches – as well as decoration and painting, she has had her works exhibited in several countries of Latin America and Europe, but has managed to combine her artistic activities with working on her other fields of interest such as agriculture and forestry, while also assisting in the care of her eight grandchildren.



### Edgardo Bentancor

He became a member of the Board of Directors in 2010, and has been its vice-president since 2013. With over thirty years of experience in foreign trade and logistics, he leads the Bentancor-Iannino company, a firm dedicated to Customs brokerage, serving a large portfolio of customers dedicated to a variety of business activities.



### Carlos Castiglioni

He became a member of the Board of Directors in 2013 and has held the position of Secretary since March 2014. During more than thirty years he has led a company, founded in 1948, dedicated to the import, manufacturing and marketing of products for the printing industry.



### **Gonzalo Trobo**

He holds a Doctor's degree in Law and Social Sciences from the University of the Republic, also holding a Master's degree in Marriage and Family law from the University of Navarra, and a Doctor's degree in Law from the University of Zaragoza. He is a tenured Professor [Class 3] at UdelaR (Universidad de la República), where he teaches Private Law I and VI. He has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2012.



### **Ignacio Frechou**

He is a certified public accountant graduated from Universidad de la República, and has taught at Universidad de la Empresa and ORT University, being currently a partner in the legal, notarial and accounting firm of Frechou Abal, Banco & Investors Trust. He became a member of the Board in 2014.



### **Johann Denk**

He has been involved with Aldeas Infantiles SOS for over 30 years now, and has been a member of the Board of Directors representing Children's Villages International since 2013. From 1985 to 1990, he led the project for the creation and launching of the Florida's Village, and later on, acted as SOS Kinderdorf International's representative and as national coordinator of the Uruguayan Association of Aldeas Infantiles SOS, where he led the restructuring of the national office. Currently he is the Deputy International Director, LAAM Region, for SOS Kinderdorf International.



### **Andrea Bellolio**

She holds a B.A. degree in Communication Sciences from Universidad de la República. She completed a postgraduate course in International Business and Regional Integration at the ORT University, and holds a Master's degree in Direction of Corporate and Institutional Communication from the University of Barcelona. She has been a member of the Board of Directors representing SOS Children's Villages International since 2015, and also since the same year is acting as SOS Children's Villages International's representative for Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.



Opening of Denmark House (Montevideo), in 1966

“Small may become big, and big may become great”

Ilse Kasdorf, founder of Aldeas Infantiles SOS Uruguay

## More than half a century of history

Rumor has it that Aldeas Infantiles in Uruguay owes its existence to a mere toothache, nearly sixty years ago. It was 1959 when Ilse Kasdorf visited a dentist's office due to a painful tooth. While she was in the waiting room, she read an article in a magazine on SOS Kinderdorf International. "This is what I must do!", she thought at that time.

After the end of World War II, thousands of children and adolescents had lost their families' care. SOS Children's Village was born in that context thanks to Hermann Gmeiner, who founded the first village in the town of Imst (Austria) in 1949.

Ten years later, Gmeiner received a letter from Ilse, proposing him to promote the organization in our country. She traveled to Europe to visit the first villages and returned with the formal backing from their founder and with a huge task in front of her. "When I returned to Uruguay I asked myself this question: 'How can I get people involved in something that is so much more than a mere job?'"\*

She started publicizing her purpose in the national press, to make the project known and obtain support: "I started explaining in Uruguay the Aldeas concept, I wrote and translated articles, I spoke on the radio. I explained that what started out small might become big, and big might in turn become great. And so the first contributions started coming in."

This is how, on September 6, 1960, the Asociación Uruguaya de Aldeas Infantiles, the Uruguayan Association of Children's Villages, was born; the first one in Latin America.

The Foster Care Service started operating in Parque del Plata in 1964, in a house donated by one of Ilse's University classmates. Some time later, the Montevideo Municipal

Government granted them the use of a land tract in Santiago Vázquez (current location of the Montevideo village), and in 1966 the first house was opened, under the name of Casa Dinamarca (Denmark House). By 1981, the village had 10 houses on that piece of land.

Construction of the Salto village began in 1983 on a land grant from the Municipal Government of Salto, and opened its doors two years later. That same year, nine-hectares of land were obtained in Florida, where the third Uruguayan village would start operating in 1990.

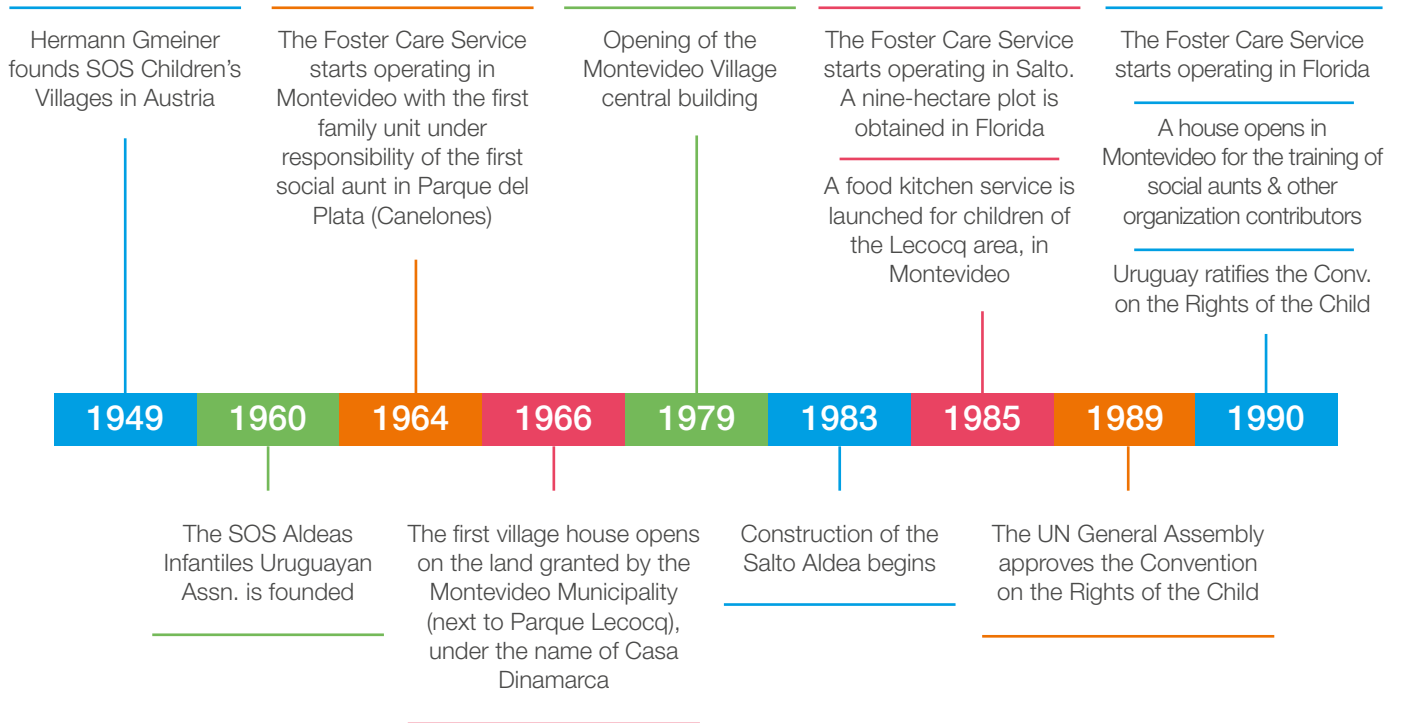
When implementation of the Strategic Plan of 2003-2008 began, the Hermann Gmeiner Social Center initiated a process of conversion and adaptation to the new organizational guidelines, to make a positive impact on family- and community strengthening for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents. Thus, the Family Strengthening Service was born nationwide in all our programs.

Over the years new locations were opened, always in search of new and better solutions for both services, such as the community houses and the spaces under agreement with the CAIFs (Centers for Child and Family Care), as well as increasing the human resources and expanding the coverage capabilities of each program.

This is how, over more than half a century after Ilse's brainstorm, the organization's purpose continues to be assuring the rights that children and adolescents have to a family- and community life.

\*Statements by Ilse Kasdorf to the journalist Pablo Vierci for the publication *La segunda oportunidad. Aldeas Infantiles SOS: 50 años de servicio en Uruguay* (The Second Chance. Aldeas Infantiles SOS: 50 years of service in Uruguay), Montevideo, 2013.

**How can I get people involved in something that is so much more than a mere job?**



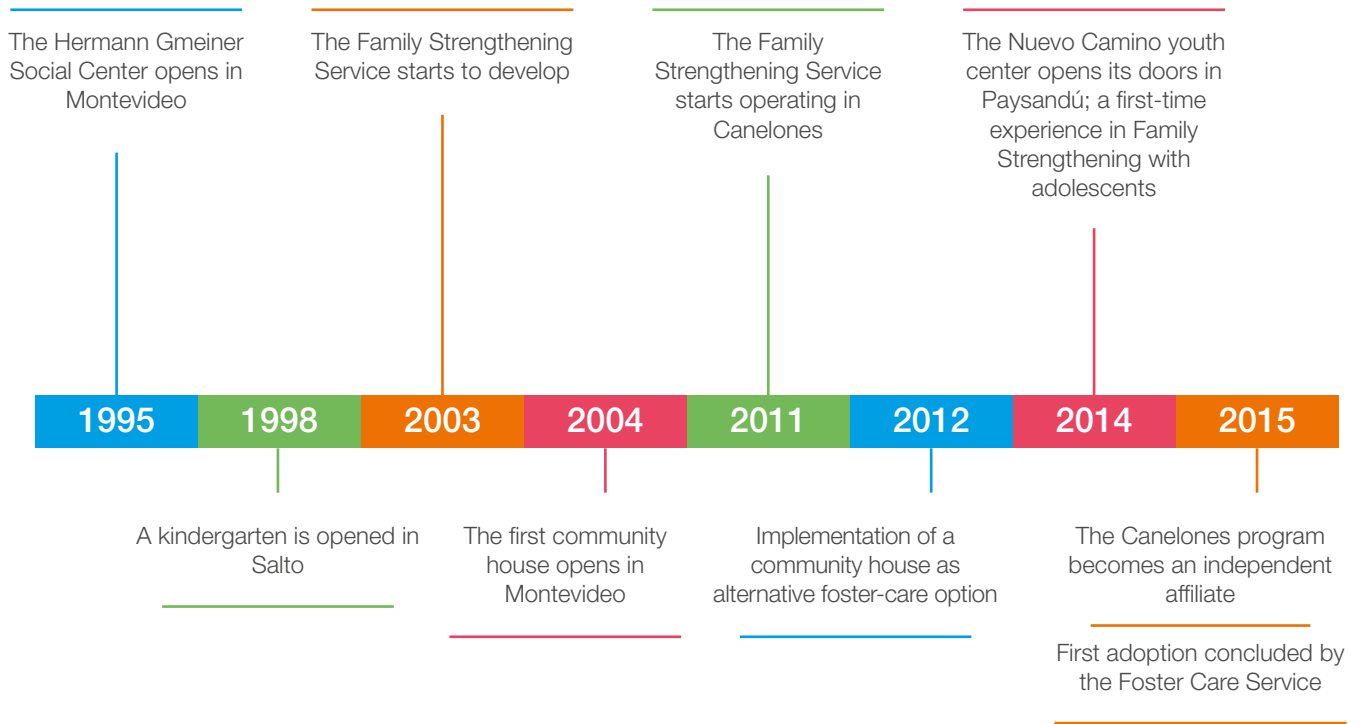
First village founded by Gmeiner in Imst (Austria)



Ilse Kasdorf, Hermann Gmeiner and Maria Nin Vivo Dighiero, honorary president of Aldeas Infantiles Uruguay 1975-1981



Opening of the Florida Village, 1990



Hermann Gmeiner's visit to Uruguay



Salto Kindergarten, 1998



Nuevo Camino (Paysandú) youth center



This is how  
we work





# 2015 in figures

## SALTO:

### Foster Care Service

- 11 houses in the village
- 3 houses in the community
- 76 participating children and adolescents

### Family Strengthening Service

- 4 CAIFs
- 2 family development spaces
- 1 Children's Club
- 373 participating children and adolescents
- 325 participating families

## PAYSANDÚ:

### Family Strengthening Service

- 2 family development spaces
- 1 Youth Center
- 1 FCTT
- 244 participating children and adolescents
- 156 participating families

## MONTEVIDEO:

### Foster Care Service

- 13 houses in the village
- 4 houses in the community
- 84 participating children and adolescents

### Family Strengthening Service

- 2 CAIFs
- 141 participating children and adolescents
- 126 participating families

## FLORIDA:

### Foster Care Service

- 12 houses in the village
- 7 houses in the community
- 92 participating children and adolescents

### Family Strengthening Service

- 3 family development spaces
- 1 CAIF
- 139 participating children and adolescents
- 144 participating families

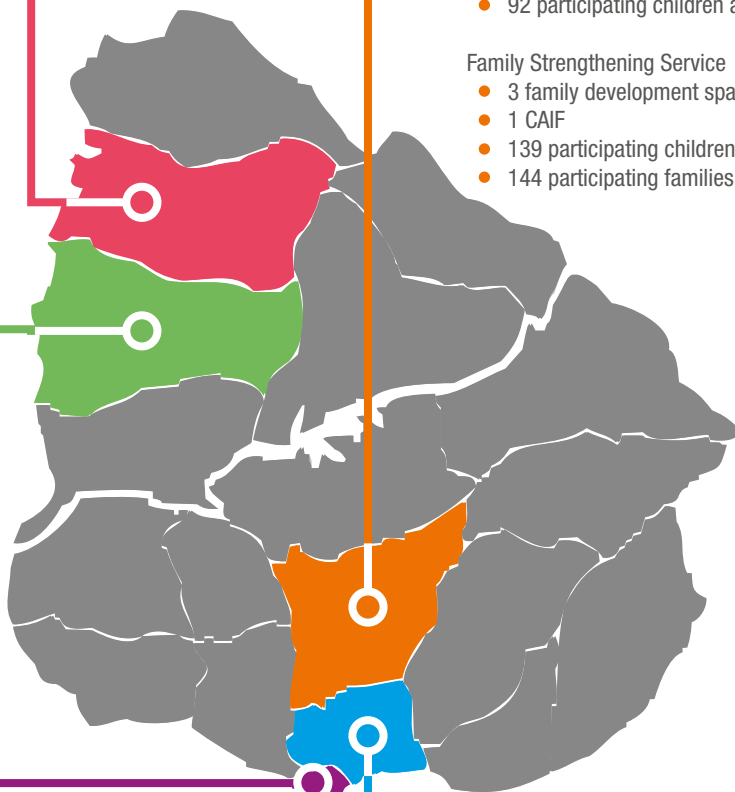
## CANELONES:

### Foster Care Service

- 4 houses in the community
- 424 participating children and adolescents

### Family Strengthening Service

- 2 CAIFs
- 147 participating children and adolescents
- 139 participating families



## By the close of 2015, we had



**30.066**

individual donors



**79**

corporate Friends



**4**

fundraising events  
and campaigns



**\$ 6.179.288**

raised through the events and campaigns,  
allocated to our programs nationwide



**112.524**

number of solidary SMS sent

### Did you know that...

... the person cooperating the longest with our organization has been a SOS Friend **for 46 years now?**

# Our work in Uruguay

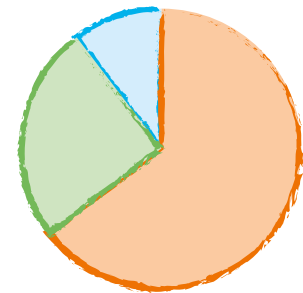
## Program Development

Our organization has a Program Development area, dedicated to coordinating the work strategies for each of the affiliates. We underline below the progress achieved during 2015:

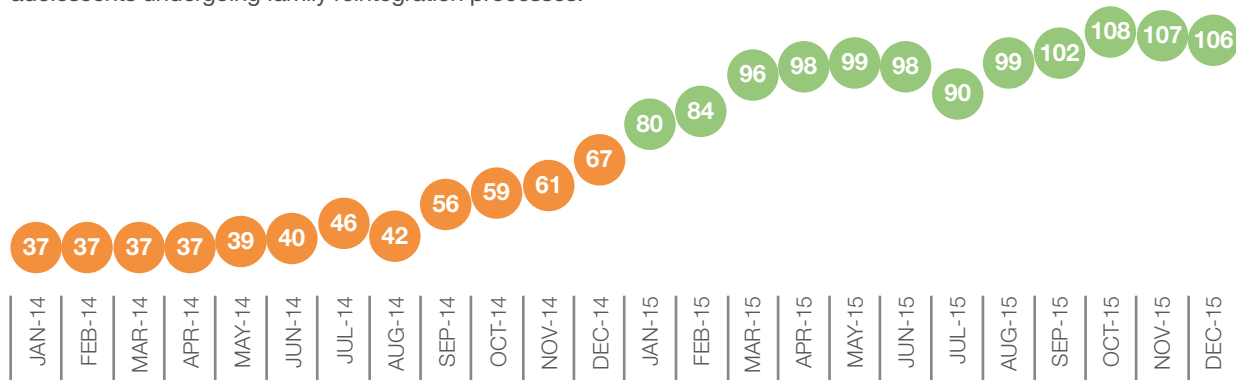
## Care in Context

The year 2015 ended with the highest number yet of children and adolescents living with their families, with support to their family restoration processes provided by the Care-in-Context type of assistance, under agreement with the State. At the close of the year, 106 children and adolescents were in family restoration processes, representing 25% of the total population assisted under Foster Care.

December 2015 Type of assistance	Number of children & adolescents	%
Foster Care	276	64,8
Support to family restoration process	106	24,9
Support to autonomy process	44	10,3
Total children and adolescents	426	100



This number increased significantly over the year, considering that by the close of 2014 we had a total of 67 children and adolescents undergoing family reintegration processes.





# Opening doors

**Over the course of 2015, the Canelones program became an independent, autonomous affiliate, while at the same time expanding its proposals and increasing coverage in the Family Strengthening and Foster Care Services.**

“Canelones is undergoing a process of gradual growth. Its services were born to provide a response to the needs of of the community’s children and adolescents, both in Family Strengthening and in Foster Care, where we work on behalf of their right to live and grow up in a safe, protected environment”, says Laura Tenchio, program coordinator.

During 2015 this affiliate experienced several changes. Thanks to an agreement concluded with INAU, it separated from the Montevideo program, becoming an independent affiliate striving to provide a better suited response to the needs of the local children and adolescents.

Although the Family Strengthening Service has been working with the Canelones community since approximately seven years now, and Foster Care since three, this transformation reinforced the existing services and promoted the opening of new ones.

As regards the Foster Care Service, a new home in Atlántida<sup>1</sup> was added to the three homes already functioning in La Paz.

“Our Foster Care Service was born to provide shelter to the local children and adolescents who had lost parental care, but that formally were considered by INAU as belonging to the Montevideo program. Little by little, the La Paz Center – this is how it was called in the beginning – started growing and gradually became a fertile territorial space serving the needs of a vast population in both services”, states Tenchio.

Furthermore, during the year the Sonrisas Infantiles type-2 CAIF center opened in Pando, with a capacity for 118 children, and an agreement was signed with INAU to open a type-2 CAIF in La Paz, which previously used to function as a family development space.

“The territorial localization of the services was coordinated with INAU according to the requirements and density of population by region. These areas respond to spaces containing the largest number of children and adolescents, who require either preventive institutional care such as the Family Strengthening service, or a foster care and restoration response”, comments Tenchio.

<sup>1</sup> In early 2016 three additional houses were opened.

## Adoption

In 2015 we were thrilled that two of our children asserted their right to family- and community life through adoption. This year's adoptions configure a landmark, being the first to happen since the inception of the National Association. We expect to continue advancing on other similar cases, with children and adolescents who meet the adoptability requirements.

## Our link with academia and contribution to the collective construction of knowledge

During the course of 2015, undergraduates and postgraduate students from national and international universities have performed academic research related to our programs<sup>1</sup>, thereby contributing to the collective corpus of knowledge about the social challenges on which we intervene and on the strategies that we have developed to deal with them.

Along the same line, Aldeas Infantiles participated in the organizing committee of the first regional colloquium “Contemporary families, contemporary interventions?” together with the Family and Childhood’s academic area and the Social Work Department of the School of Social Sciences, the Association of Social Workers of Uruguay and the Life and Education civil association. The colloquium, organized with the purpose of debating on interventions and approaches to families from a social work standpoint, was held on August 6 and August 7. Attendance included over 500 students and professionals of the

region, renowned and academically prestigious speakers from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Spain and Uruguay, and a total of 80 papers presented at the different theme groups. Aldeas Infantiles’ participation bolstered its standing with academia and with the social work professionals in Uruguay and the region.

Additionally, in March and as a second stage in the exchange project between the SOS affiliates of Germany and Uruguay, four members of the Uruguayan Association visited the German affiliate. The exchange was very satisfactory for both Associations, and plans were made to continue the experience during two additional years. The outcome of this experience was documented in the paper “Systematization of the 2015 SOS Germany-Uruguay Exchange Experience”, available at the organization’s website.



1st. regional Colloquium: ¿Familias contemporáneas, intervenciones contemporáneas? [“Contemporary families, contemporary interventions?”]

<sup>1</sup> *Visibilización de la parentalidad en jóvenes en contextos de pobreza* [“Awareness of parenting in youths within poverty contexts”]. Winning research at the call for papers by CSIC [Scientific Research Sectorial Committee], Aldeas Infantiles and the Social Work Department of the School of Social Sciences, University of the Republic (UdelaR).

*Tías SOS* [“SOS Aunts”]. Graduation paper – School of Social Sciences.

*Generación de conocimiento organizacional y RRHH* [“Generation of organizational knowledge and Human Resources”]. Graduation paper, Catholic University of Uruguay (UCU).

*Cumplimiento de las Directrices de NU en Aldeas Infantiles Uruguay* [“Compliance of the UN Directives in Aldeas Infantiles Uruguay”]. Graduation paper, Social Work, UCU.

*Competencias directivas basadas en la experiencia de las Asesoras de Familia de Origen de AISOS Uruguay* [“Managerial skills based on the experience of AISOS Uruguay’s Family-of-Origin counselors”]. Doctoral Thesis, College of Education, University of Barcelona



© Centro Juvenil Nuevo Camino

# Divine treasure

Adolescents and youths at the Nuevo Camino Youth Center respond:

## Why do you come to the Youth Center?

*To be with my friends.* (Kevin, 14 years old)

*Because it is fun.* (Esteban, 14 years old)

## What is the best of the Youth Center?

*Making friends.* (Antonella, 13 years old)

*Sharing new things.* (Maria, 13 years old)

*Football, watching movies and the sports and art workshops.* (Felix, 17 years old)

## What activities would you like them to have for you?

*Carpentry, mechanics.* (Bruno, 12 years old)

*Sewing and dancing.* (Ana, 13 years old)

## What are your favorite topics addressed in the workshops?

*The workshops on how to use social networks.* (Iara, 15 years old)

*Those which deal on violence.* (Agustín, 14 years old)

*Those about sexuality and respect toward women.* (Cristian, 18 years old)

## What does it mean to you, being an adolescent?

*A new stage, something that makes you take a step forward.* (Maria, 13 years old)

*It is a very nice stage because you learn things you didn't know.* (Cristian, 18 years old)

*It's being a grown-up dude.* (Felix, 17 years old)

## How do you think that adults see adolescents?

*As small kids.* (Antonella, 13 years old)

*That we change as times goes by.* (Kevin, 15 years old)

*As being stressed out.* (Alexander, 13 years old)

*Adults are nice to adolescents and want to help them get ahead.* (Cristian, 18 years old)

## What would you like people who haven't been to Nuevo Camino to know about the Center?

*That there are many workshops, that it is fun, that you learn.* (Maria, 13 years old)

*That they should check it out, that it's cool.* (Felix, 17 years old)

## Working with INAU



Official opening of the Nuevo Uruguay CAIF in Salto

The year 2015 was a year of major achievements in terms of programmatic and financial sustainability on the basis of the agreements concluded with the State and other partnering bodies. The agreements with the State allow us to work comprehensively, providing the most adequate material and human resources with which to reach the highest levels of protection for children and adolescents.

In this context, we signed an agreement for the management of a Foster Care Service in Canelones, with a capacity to care for 50 children and adolescents.

Additionally, we concluded agreements for five new CAIFs, bringing the national total to nine. Accordingly, Aldeas Infantiles SOS became the organization managing the largest number of CAIFs in the country.

### CAIFs under agreement with Aldeas Infantiles:

#### Salto Program

- Nuevo Uruguay
- San Eduardo (opening process in 2015)
- Nuevo Don Atilio (opening process in 2015)
- Salto Nuevo Sur (opening process in 2015)

#### Florda Program

- 25 de Agosto

#### Montevideo Program

- Tranvía del Oeste
- Verdisol (opening in 2015)

#### Canelones Program

- La Paz (opening process in 2015)
- Sonrisas Infantiles

## Leaving footprints

Rosanna, Marcela, Liliana, Nancy and Romina are educators in the family development spaces (FDS) Avenida and Candil, of Florida. As other educators in our spaces across the country, during the course of 2015 they completed their training as Early Childhood Educators at INAU's Training and Studies Center (Cenfores), a career proposing an educational approach based on children's interests. We spoke with them to find out how this new approach to the

learning processes was actually implemented in our FDS classrooms.

### How do you feel that your training impacted your work in the classroom?

**Liliana:** Our training has changed our day-to-day work. During the course of this training, we started observing the children, their interests, their preconceived ideas, and all this enabled us to start planning.

**Marcela:** We think of the child first as a person, the baggage they bring along, their history, habits, the place where they live, even what they eat. Building on that, we contribute to the child's development. It's not about taking away what they bring, because it's theirs. Based

on that, it is a pleasure to work and discover all that they know. It's enjoyable by all sides, the child's, ours, and the family's, because we involve them all in our projects. The children take photographs or small cards home of what we are doing, and they come back looking happier.

**Nancy:** We learned to get to know the families, establish a dialogue with them. It's important to see how I can approach the children to offer them the best of myself, and try to build on that and build up myself before them.

### What differences do you notice with the work you were doing before completing this course?

**Marcela:** By enabling, benefiting and providing them now with spaces so that they can handle themselves better, in the future they will have freedom, power of decision. The materials we now use are more varied and natural, such as boxes, noodles, water.

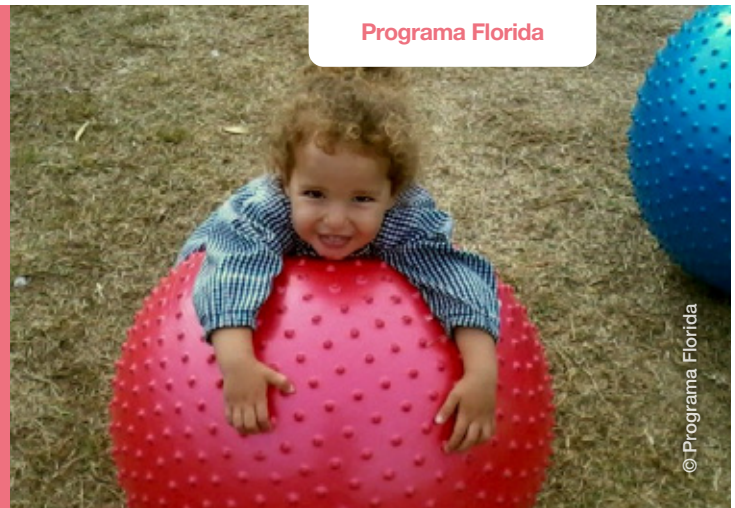
**Rosanna:** It is important to use real things. If you are going to play kitchen, then you should do it with kitchen utensils. They live in the real world. Why should we offer them a fantasy world? Because they are children?

**Marcela:** Neither do we play just children's songs for them. We do choose with care the lyrics and themes, but we offer them a variety of rhythms.

### What is your relationship like with the family or the adult caregivers?

**Nancy:** Through the families you can start getting to know the child. We must get them to be involved, even in the planning stage. Just informing them is not the only thing I am going to do. Participating includes much more: it means listening to them, making decisions and listening to their voice.

**Marcela:** Education flows from parents to children. We contribute. It is not our place to educate as if we were the parents, but from our position as educators. The children should meet with an educator who is flexible, who enables them, supports them, but within their own background. We will be showing them other things, opening up the range of options to give them the chance of discovery and choice.



© Programa Florida

### Within this ludic-oriented educational method, what do you believe is the role of childplay in early childhood?

**Liliana:** There used to be a common perception that all that children did at the centers was just play, as if by playing they were not learning or doing anything else. We now see it otherwise. We know that through play, the child learns. And if parents don't see it in this way, we explain it to them and then they do see it, they actually see our work.

**Rosanna:** Playing is one of the basic needs of early childhood, and one of the basic principles of the method. Besides it is a right, and this is what matters the most. Therefore, if we are speaking about rights, how is it that if they are playing they aren't doing anything? This is food for thought, but for us, it involved a whole process.

**Marcela:** When we started this training, the other shoe dropped about what our own role was, because we were not aware that we were impacting the child's life in such a big way

**Nancy:** The child saw us as this larger-than-life thing... In the world of adults, we walk so fast that we never stop to reflect on these things.

**Rosanna:** Time and rhythm are very important, and more so in early childhood. This is the footprint that we leave for the rest of their lives.

## Other cooperation agreements

During 2015 we continued our agreement with UdelaR's (University of the Republic) School of Social Sciences, by which advanced Social Work students do internships at the Foster Care Service of the Montevideo and Canelones programs.

By agreement with the UCU (Catholic University of Uruguay) School of Nutrition, the latter implemented a research project at the Montevideo Foster Care service, intended to analyze together with the caregivers the nutritional value of the meals prepared at the houses, and then propose menus to improve the quality of the food served daily to the participating children and adolescents. The result was very positive, and currently we are expanding this project to all our programs.



Additionally, we concluded an agreement with Human Capital Consulting (HCC), by which students of the Coaching career work on the basis of this method with youths at the Montevideo program, with the purpose of providing them with tools for their life projects.

## Monitoring, Assessment and Research

This area applies a monitoring, assessment and research system to all levels of the National Association, with the purpose of acquiring the necessary information, analysis and relevant knowledge for a timely and efficient adoption of decisions. We publish monthly statistical reports with data on the population assisted by all our services, and throughout the year we monitor key indicators on the development of the participating children and adolescents. Additionally, we perform annually focalized studies devised by the National Directors and the program directors, intended to provide data and input on specific topics.

During 2015 we initiated a specific study focused on the community houses of the Foster Care Service, with the purpose of describing the conditions and features necessary to attain care standards of quality. In this way, we obtain useful input for planning any future openings. We have also implemented management-targeted monitoring tools, one of which is a spreadsheet allowing a follow up of family restorations.

Moreover, we have evaluated different softwares applicable to social intervention, with a mind to improving the quality of records and arranging interventions according to objectives, indicators and results, thereby increasing our efficiency in follow-up and supervision.

## Promotion and Defense of Rights and Advocacy

With the purpose of intensifying implementation of the Child Protection Policy (CPP), each Local Protection Committee prepared an annual plan on awareness, prevention and improvement of the reporting and response processes.

# Yes, you can!

**In 2015 we approved more than 20 projects, as part of the initiative "Undertaking for change", which seeks to incentivize empowerment and financial independence for the participants of our services in Salto.**

The project started on the basis of funds received from SOS Children's Villages Germany, in line with the organization's new gender policy.

"The new Aldeas Infantiles gender policy works on five principles. On a national level, we decided to work on the principle of women's empowerment, because we felt it was most appropriate to provide support to the participants of the year's occupational workshops, so that they could start a business of their own. Therefore we started thinking about a project that would also be educational, not just consisting of a financial support", underlines Lourdes Chiriff, assistant of the Monitoring, Assessment and Research area.

Many of the beginner entrepreneurs are women participating in the occupational workshops of the Family Strengthening Service, although there are also cases of financially challenged women who are assisted under care in context. All of them received financial support to purchase useful instruments and tools to help them start their own business, either individually or in cooperatives. The lines of business on which the projects focus are dressmaking, sale of clothing and hairdressing.

"For many women, being independent workers allows them to manage their schedules. This has its pros and contras, but for a highly vulnerable population, the issue of caring for their children and not having with whom to leave them represents an obstacle", says Chiriff.

In order to get the "Undertaking for change" project going, the program hired a team from Salto's Catholic University (monitored by the organization) to provide training in self-management and entrepreneurship. The project also involved a psychologist and a social worker to contribute a social perspective.

"During all these years we had already been working with the Catholic University, since the training provided at the Aldeas workshop was not restricted to practical training, but supplemented each workshop with a management course. In this way, the women had the chance of learning a little bit of management, marketing, costs, labor laws. Supplementing training with this management aspect was extremely necessary", states Laurita Bella, director of the Salto program.

Patricia, entrepreneur and workshop instructor of the project, underlines the importance of this initiative. "A credit of this nature will be spectacular for them. It will help them to find a job solution, a new line of work and additional income to improve the family situation".

For the project participants, the experience represents not only a job opportunity, but a space for transformation, growth and empowerment. "I loved the experience, I loved the existing camaraderie, established between what Patricia created, the class, and with other centers and groups. This training experience makes you grow", tells Ruth.

"I was anxious, a little nervous" – comments Marcela. "When Laurita (Bella) said that we were all granted the credit, I was moved to tears, because this means feeling that your work has value, that the project you submitted was good, that it was approved and that ultimately, yes, you can!."

In the context of strategic alliances, the programs continued and intensified the alliance with INAU's PROPIA (Child and Adolescent Participation Program) for the promotion of child participation, through which each program succeeded in getting the children and adolescents participating in our Foster Care and Family Strengthening services together for mass activities, together with advisers and educators.



Activity with PROPIA in Salto

During 2015, Aldeas Infantiles continued its lobbying efforts in favor of the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents and their families, by way of the following actions:

- Continued participation in the Pro-Care Network, whose interaction with government authorities and the efforts in making public opinion aware of caring aspects were a key factor in pushing for the law that created such system, while intensifying an ongoing dialogue with its authorities, to whom we forwarded proposals and comments on the policies to be implemented.
- We initiated a new nationwide lobbying effort centered on the youths exiting from the protection

system, with special emphasis placed on the challenges they face in this process. To this effect, we devised a research project approved by INAU, the first stage of which was completed by mapping the existing policies and resources available to support the youths who exit from the protection system, and outlining INAU's exit-related guidelines to the teams in charge of the different foster care models. In the second and third stages of the research, we will enquire into the perceptions held by the protection system operators as well as by the institutionalized youths and those who have recently become independent, about the process of exiting from the different assistance models. This aspect of the research will seek to identify the main challenges encountered during and after the process of exit, and to explore the effectiveness of the resources offered by the State in support of autonomy.

- Participation in the preparatory sessions for the Social Dialogue (convened by the Government), organized by the National Association of Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NANGDO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Its purpose was to exchange ideas on the main social challenges which should be broached, to which end a preliminary document was prepared containing proposals and priorities, including the issues affecting the Aldeas Infantiles target population.

- Participation in a dialogue with the National Human Rights Institution (INDDHH) about the monitoring of institutions for the protection of children and adolescents and the deprivation of freedom.

- Work with the NANGDO team on children for feedback on actions planned by the Government under its 2015-2030 National Strategy for Children and Adolescents (ENIA) and its operational plan.

# Living in a family

**The Care-in-Context assistance model consists in assisting families in the context of their own homes. The purpose of this protocol is to assure the right to family- and community life, thus avoiding the damages inflicted by lengthy institutional stays.**

The population assisted according to this pattern amounts to a fourth of our total register. At the close of December 2015, we provided support under Care in Context to a nationwide total of 106 children and adolescents and their families. Out of this figure, 45 cases belonged to the Montevideo program.

“Care in Context is used preventively, providing resources to the family in question so it can remain united and children may continue living with their family, which is one of the rights of the Convention [on the Rights of the Child]: the right to family- and community life”, states Samuel Diogo, adviser to Aldeas Uruguay on Program Development. “There are situations where separating children from their family is not necessary, because you can provide other solutions to improve situations where you are seeing a violation of rights”, he adds.

The Montevideo program has been working on this alternative assistance protocol since 2013, with the purpose of providing an adequate response to each situation and assure the restoration of violated rights. In order to assure the sustainability of these processes, apart from our direct work with the families and providing financial and technical support, we conduct, working in tandem with other community organizations, a survey of the resources available in the area. The relationship with the educational centers, for instance, is essential for coordinating interventions, finding out the teachers’ perception of the children and adoles-

cents in question, and confronting their views with those of our organization’s. Also essential is establishing a dialogue with the healthcare centers and municipal and government departments who provide resources to the community.

In 2015, the Montevideo program intensified its work on this assistance model and obtained positive results in more than 40 cases.

Says Victoria Terra, coordinator of Skills Development in the Montevideo program, “we need to continue intensifying this line of work. It is very important to lower the number of years spent in institutions, which always leave hard-to-revert effects. We must assure the restoration of violated rights. We often find alternatives with blood relatives who the only thing they to assume caring for the children is financial support. We have seen deeply moving gestures of great generosity, from families who give shelter to one, two and even up to six nieces or nephews, showing great openness of mind and commitment”.

Diego Cabrera, family-of-origin adviser of the Montevideo program, points out that one of the biggest challenges in working with families is “assisting without judging”. “You have to understand each situation independently from your own family experience. This is not about comparing with a benchmark or with how it should be. This is about understanding each situation and searching together with the family for the best you can provide.”





This is  
how to  
contribute

## Individual donors: SOS Friends

An SOS Friend is the person who, by means of a monthly contribution, supports the organization so that we can develop our programs throughout the national territory.

### By phone landline:

The contribution may be paid by debiting your Antel account, with a single phone call to any of these phone numbers:



**0908 6001** to contribute with **URP 100** per month  
**0908 6002** to contribute with **URP 200** per month  
**0908 6003** to contribute with **URP 350** per month  
**0908 6004** to contribute with **URP 500** per month

This amount is charged every month to your telephone bill.

### By SMS:

You can also make a contribution by SMS text message through Antel's either prepaid or contract services. By sending a text message to **10101** with the word **ALDEAS** you contribute with URP 10 (per each text message)



### By credit card:

You may contribute by automatic debit from your credit card with Oca, Master, Visa, Cabal, Créditos Directos, Líder (Italcred) or Diners, by filling out a form on the following web address: [www.aldeasinfantiles.org.uy](http://www.aldeasinfantiles.org.uy)



For additional information, click here:

[www.crecerenfamilia.org.uy](http://www.crecerenfamilia.org.uy)  
or call 24002353, ext. 3338



Foto: Patrick Wittmann





# A solidarity legacy

A solidarity legacy is an outstanding gesture of responsibility and generosity, consisting in a written and signed statement of will from any person wishing to leave their possessions to the organization with the purpose of passing on their solidarity to the next generations.

To learn more on the procedure of how to leave your possessions to Aldeas Infantiles, please call 24002353, extension 3224.

# Corporate Social Responsibility:


Corporate Social Responsibility consists in a voluntary commitment of companies —beyond their current legal obligations— with the goal of contributing to the sustainable development of the community, respecting the balance between economic growth, social progress and environment protection.

## Why contribute to Aldeas Infantiles?

Because your contribution may make it possible for hundreds of Uruguayan children and adolescents to have the right to a family- and community life.

If you are subject to the payment of IRAE [tax on economic activity], you may contribute with our organization and profit of the tax benefits contemplated under Sections 270 and 271 of Law 18.834 (Special Donations).

**This is how companies contributed in 2015**

Alliances for the organization of events 



“Music on behalf of the Children” II



Conferences on Childhood



Aldeas in Kibón



“One Uruguayan \$ 20” campaign through RedPagos

↙ Alliances for the development of campaigns



“Solidary SMS” campaign through Antel

↘ Financing via charitable shows



Stand-up by Maxi de la Cruz, for the benefit of Aldeas Infantiles, organized by Pronto!

↘ Organization of training events



Financial Training workshop for the Aldeas Infantiles team, organized by Pronto!

Support in disseminating the work by Aldeas and fundraising campaigns



Más Bus support in the "Solidary SMS" campaign



Movimagen support to the "One Uruguayan \$ 20" campaign



Donations



Stadium's donation of shoes for our programs' participants

## These companies contributed with us in 2015:



AF Maderas SRL  
 Agrofin SA  
 Agropecuaria Salto SRL  
 Bafiral SA  
 Cabaña El Ceibo  
 Cabaña Macedo  
 Cabaña Rincón De Los Negros  
 Cabaña Yamandú  
 Al Costo SA  
 Carlevaro & Asociados LTDA.  
 Carnicería Villa España SRL

Corfrisa  
 DS Producciones SRL  
 Edgardo Luzardo  
 Escritorio lindarte Cía.  
 Almacén De Hierros  
 Cabaña San Eduardo  
 La Perdiz  
 Glencoe Sociedad Ganadera  
 Grupo Ideas Distribución SRL  
 Juan B. Canali  
 La Coronilla

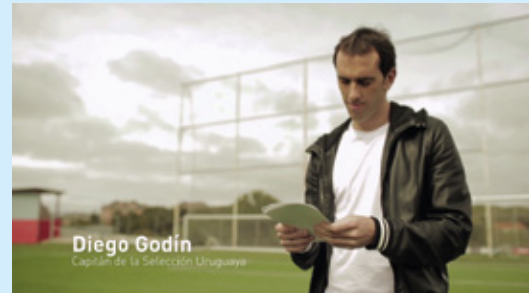
La Ganadera  
 Las Rosas Estancia SRL  
 Los Tempraneros  
 Cabaña Curruti Del Salvador  
 Odacor SA  
 Raquel Blanca Arrarte Pons  
 Rinde SRL  
 Jorge Martínez & Asociados  
 San José Del Yerbál  
 Veterinaria Bortagaray  
 Victorica Consignaciones SRL

## Fundraising events and activities in 2016

### How much is growing up in a family worth?

*Campaign with Diego Godín's support*

“How much is growing up in a family worth?” is the question that the player of Atlético Madrid and the Uruguayan national football team Diego Godín is asking in this campaign that invites people to contribute with the organization, so that we may continue to assure the rights of thousands of Uruguayan children and adolescents to a family- and community life.



While looking through photographs from his own childhood, the renowned footballer reflects about the value of family containment and support. This piece was made possible thanks to the support of the Godín family and the work of Cámara TBWA advertising agency, the producer La Granja Films, El Deseo (Spain), and the National Association of Uruguayan Broadcasters (ANDEBU).

The video is available at [www.crecerenfamilia.org.uy](http://www.crecerenfamilia.org.uy)

### Toward a children-focused CSR

*Second edition of Conferences on Childhood*

In September of this year the second edition of Conferences on Childhood will take place, for the purpose of generating a forum for the exchange of ideas between public and private parties about investment on children and adolescents.

In the first edition of this event, held in 2015, participants included major influencers of the public and private sector, who presented their views about the importance of shared responsibilities regarding the development of children and adolescents, and the possibilities of generating true social transformations on this issue.

### **“Music on behalf of the Children” III**

*Ruben Rada and noteworthy national figures of the musical scene in charitable concert.*

This November 3, the Ramón Collazo Summer Theater will be the venue for Music on behalf of the Children III, featuring Ruben Rada, one of the most renowned musical figures of the River Plate region, who will run through his over 50 years-long repertoire, joined by other famous national musical artists.



As in the previous editions, this event will offer a great chance to enjoy a show offered by great artists committed to the cause of the rights of children and adolescents. The funds raised will be dedicated to financing the operation of all our programs nationwide.

### **Solidarity contribution in store locales**

*Devoto and Farmashop will implement cooperation campaigns at their check-out stations during May, June and August.*

As part of their corporate social responsibility actions, the supermarket chain Devoto and the drugstore chain Farmashop will invite their customers to make a solidarity payment when checking out their purchases at their stores.

### **Colecta Te provides support to Aldeas**

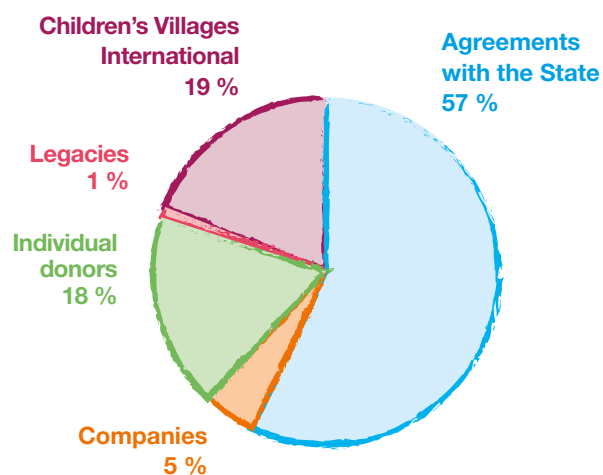
*This digital platform for the participation and management of fundraising campaigns will get on board in addition to our other fundraising channels*

Colecta Te is a digital app facilitating the participation and management of fundraising efforts through online means of payment. This platform may be used by persons wishing to create a fundraiser or participate in one, and by organizations that might want to add another channel whereby to receive donations.

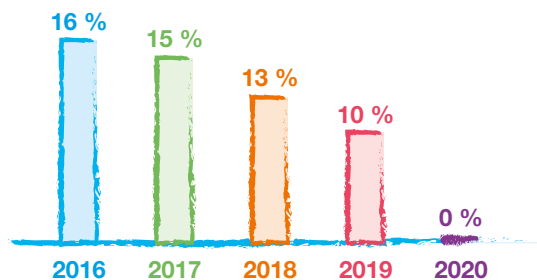
In 2016, this platform will support the work of Aldeas Infantiles as a digital platform for collective fundraising, which will allow to create specific projects impacting directly on the children and adolescents participating in our organization's services and programs, while at the same time providing a statement on the allocation of the funds raised that may be seen by anyone who contributed with their online payments.

## This is how we invest your contribution

Historically, our organization has financed its work with funds originating from a variety of sources: international subsidies, contributions from individual donors, corporate alliances and agreements with the State (INAU). With the goal of attaining sustainability by 2020, the conclusion of agreements with the State, the increase of individual donors and the development of new strategic alliances with companies committed to the cause of the rights of children and adolescents, are key factors in preventing any restriction to our services while at the same time, allowing us to keep improving them. Currently, the sources of income on a national level are distributed as follows:



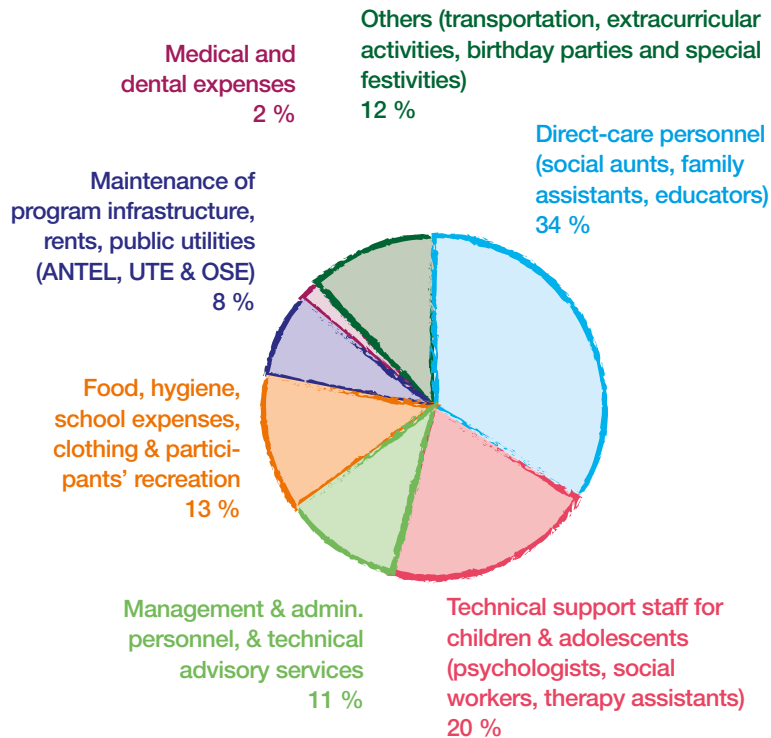
### Subsidy from Children's Villages International



Transparency of our actions is essential, and it is affirmed in a number of ways:

- We are audited by Children's Villages International on an ongoing basis.
- An international external firm performs an annual audit of our finances (since 2014, Deloitte). To date, each and every one of the external audit examinations have issued a clean Audit Report with no issues noted.
- We deliver a bimonthly report of all monies received from the State.
- We issue an annual report for the Ministry of Economy and Finance accounting for the use of funds raised as company donations under the special regime of Special Donations.
- We participate in the civil society Accountability (Rendir Cuentas) initiative to promote transparency, and every year we release key information using this tool.

Our national budget is allocated as follows:







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